CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system, comprising:

a signal processor for receiving a signal to be processed; and

an information handling system for receiving an output signal provided by said signal processor, the output signal being representative of at least a portion of the input signal, wherein said information handling system provides a control signal to said signal processor and said signal processor encodes data onto the output signal in response to the control signal such that the encoded data is decodable by said information handling system.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, said signal processor including a data encoder for encoding the data onto the output signal, and said information handling system having a data decoder for decoding the data from the output signal received from said signal processor.

3. A system as claimed in claim 1, said information handling system having a transmitter for transmitting the control signal to said signal processor, and said signal processor having a receiver and decoder for receiving and decoding the control signal received from said information handling system.

4. A system as claimed in claim 1, said information handling system being capable of reproducing the output signal received from said signal processor.

5. A system as claimed in claim 1, the signal to be processed and the output signal provided by said signal processor being video signals.

6. A system as claimed in claim 1, the output signal provided by said signal processor being a video signal, the data being encoded into a vertical blanking interval of the output signal.

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7. A system as claimed in claim 1, the output signal provided by said signal processor being an NTSC compliant video signal, the data being encoded onto a vertical blanking interval of the NTSC compliant video signal.

8. A system as claimed in claim 1, the output signal provided by said signal processor being an NTSC compliant video signal, the data being encoded onto a vertical blanking interval of the NTSC compliant video signal in compliance with an Electronic Industry Association standard.

9. A system as claimed in claim 1, the control signal being a wireless signal.

10. A system as claimed in claim 1, said signal processor being an information storage media player.

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11. A system, comprising:

means for processing a received signal;

means for transmitting a control signal to said processing means;

means, coupled with said processing means for receiving and decoding the control signal;

means, coupled with said processing means, for encoding data onto an output signal provided by said processing means in response to the control signal; and

means for transmitting the output signal to said transmitting means wherein said transmitting means is capable of decoding the encoded data from the provided signal.

12. A system as claimed in claim 11, the data being indicative of a status of execution of the control signal.

13. A system as claimed in claim 11, the data being indicative of a status of said processing means.

14. A system as claimed in claim 11, said processing means including means for storing at least a portion of the received signal to an information storage medium and for reproducing at least a portion of the stored signal as the output signal.

15. A method, comprising:

transmitting a control signal to a signal processor from an information handling system that controls the signal processor;

receiving and decoding the control signal;

providing an output signal from the signal processor to the information handling system; and

encoding data onto the provided output signal in response to the control signal.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, the provided output signal being a video signal, said encoding step including encoding the data in a vertical blanking interval of the video signal.

17. A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising the step of decoding the data from the provided output signal.

18. A method as claimed in claim 15, the data being indicative of a status of the signal processor.

19. A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising the steps of encoding the data in an available vertical blanking interval of the output signal, and, in the event a vertical blanking interval is not available, interleaving the data in a previously existing data packet.

20. A program of instructions storable on a computer readable medium for causing an information handling system to execute a series of steps, the steps comprising:

transmitting a control signal from an information handling system to a signal processor that the information handling system controls;

receiving and decoding the control signal;

providing an output signal from the signal processor to the information handling system; and

encoding data onto the output signal in response to the control signal.

21. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 20, the steps further including the step of decoding the data from the output signal.

22. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 20, the data being indicative of a state of the signal processor.

23. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 20, the output signal being a video signal wherein the data is encoded into a vertical blanking interval of the video signal.

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24. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 20, the steps further comprising the steps of encoding the data in an available vertical blanking interval of the output signal, and, in the event a vertical blanking interval is not available, interleaving the data in a previously existing data packet.